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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
23 and 30 April 1999

Draft report

Introduction

1. By its resolutions S/19-2, annex, taken at its nineteenth special session, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 A of 15 December 1998 and 53/189 B of 7 April 1999, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session on 27 and 28 September 1999 in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It also decided that the Commission on Sustainable Development should serve as the preparatory body for the special session.

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States met at United Nations Headquarters on 23 and 30 April. The preparatory body held two meetings (1st and 2nd) and a number of informal working group meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Chairman of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Mr. Simon Upton (New Zealand).

B. Attendance

4. The following States were represented:

[To be included]

5. The observer for Palestine attended the session.

6. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

[To be included]

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

[To be included]

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

[To be included]

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9. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

[To be included]

C. Documentation

10. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session had before it the following documents:

(a) Draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.1);

(b) Letter dated 16 April 1999 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.2);

(c) Information note on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.3);

(d) Draft decision submitted by the Chairman on arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations at the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/PC/L.1);

(e) Draft report of the Commission acting as the preparatory body for the special session (E/CN.9/1999/PC/L.2).

II. Preparations for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

11. At the 1st meeting, on 23 April, the Chairman introduced the following documents:

(a) Draft provisional agenda and organizational matters for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.1);

(b) Letter dated 16 April 1999 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.2);

(c) Information note on the establishment of the list of speakers for the debate in plenary of the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/PC/CRP.3).

12. At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory body heard high-level statements by the Minister of Lands, Surveys and Environment of Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States); the Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba; the Chargé d'affaires of the Marshall Islands; the Minister of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment of Maldives; the Permanent Representative of Haiti; the Under-Secretary for Global Affairs of the United States of America; the Ambassador for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Belgium; the Director-General for Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection, European Commission, on behalf of the European Community; the Permanent Representative of Mauritius; the Minister for Science and Technology of Guyana; the representative of Saint Lucia; the Permanent Representative of Suriname; the Permanent Representative of Jamaica; the Permanent Representative of Grenada; the Chargé d'affaires of Fiji; the representative of New Zealand; and the Minister of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources of Barbados (on behalf of the countries of the Caribbean Community).

13. Also at the 1st meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

14. At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory body then engaged in an interactive dialogue.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 April, the Commission acting as the preparatory body had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chairman on arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations at the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/PC/L.1).

[To be completed]

III. Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly

[To be included]

IV. Resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly

[To be included]